

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOGADI 00974 130934Z
ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 ACDA-07 OMB-01
TRSE-00 AID-05 /100 W
-----130938Z 046178/17

R 121000Z JUN 77
FM AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4957
INFO USLO PEKING
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMEMBASSY SANA
AMCONSUL DJIBOUTI
USUN NEW YORK 539

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0974

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, SO, CH
SUBJECT: SOMALI DELEGATION VISITS CHINA

BEGIN UNCLASSIFIED

1. SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY (SONNA)
REPORTS THAT 15-MEMBER DELEGATION LEFT MOGADISCIO JUNE 9
ENROUTE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA (PRC). DELEGATION HEADED BY
SOMALI REVOLUTIONARY SOCIALIST PARTY (SRSP) CENTRAL COMMITTEE
MEMBER MAJOR HAMSA MOHAMED GADAWEYNE, WHO IS CHAIRMAN SRSP
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BUREAU FOR SECURITY, AND INCLUDED VICE CHAIRMAN BUREAU FOR
POLITICAL SCIENCE INSTITUTE MOHAMED JAMA AHMED AND OTHER
PARTY FUNCTIONARIES. SOMALIS WILL REMAIN IN CHINA APPROXIMATELY
ONE MONTH "TO ACQUAINT THEMSELVES WITH THE EXPERIENCE OF THE
CHINESE PEOPLE IN PARTY/GOVERNMENT AFFAIRS".

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2. COMMENT: AS ALWAYS BEFORE SUCH EVENTS, THERE HAVE BEEN RUMORS AND MUCH SPECULATION ABOUT MISSION TO CHINA. SOME DIPLOMATIC SOURCES THOUGHT VICE PRESIDENT ISMAIL ALI ABOKOR WOULD HEAD DELEGATION. WHETHER A LOWER-RANKING REPRESENTATIVE WAS SUBSTITUTED AT LAST MINUTE OR SOURCES SIMPLY HAD STORY WRONG WILL PROBABLY NEVER BE KNOWN. THERE IS ALSO SPECULATION THAT PURPOSE VISIT IS TO OBTAIN ARMS FROM CHINA; THIS REMAINS BE SEEN. TO COMPLICATE MATTERS FURTHER, IT WOULD BE PREMATURE TO CHARACTERIZE VISIT TO CHINA AS STRICTLY ANTI-SOVIEET MOVE. GSDR HAS TRADITIONALLY HAD CORDIAL RELATIONS WITH PRC, EVEN AT HEIGHT ITS ATTACHMENT TO SOVIETS. AND, KNOWING GSDR'S PENCHANT FOR KEEPING FOREIGN SUITORS OFF BALANCE IT WAS PROBABLY NO COINCIDENCE THAT HIGHLEVEL SRSP DELEGATIONS ARE CURRENTLY VISITING GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC AND CZECHLOSLOVAKIA (WERE INTER-PARTY AGREEMENT PROVIDING FOR REGULAR VISITS AND STUDY TOURS WAS SIGNED JUNE 10). MOREOVER PRESIDENT MOHAMED SIAD BARRE HELD MEETING WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OFFICIALS JUNE 6 AT WHICH, ACCORDING SONNA, HE CLAIMED THAT REPORTS OF TROUBLE BETWEEN GSDR AND SOVIET UNION WERE "FALSE PROPAGANDA". WE CONCLUDE THAT DESPITE GSDR'S ESCALATING PROPAGANDA WAR ON SOVIETS' NEW PROTEGE, ETHIOPIA (SEPTEL), GSDR IS NOT YET READY BURN BRIDGES TO MOSCOW.

LOUGHREN

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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Disposition History: n/a
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Disposition Remarks:
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TAGS: PGOV, SO, CH, UR, (HAMSA MOHAMED GADAWEYNE)
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